



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

**November 15, 2007**

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director  
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

---

### **Rep. Shuler Secures \$1 Million Project for Mission Hospitals**

*Demonstration Project will Improve Care of Uniformed Personnel*

**Washington, D.C.** – Representative Heath Shuler today announced that he has secured a federal appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the development of an integrated clinical system to improve the Computer Physician Order Entry process used at Department of Defense medical facilities worldwide in the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill.

The Department of Defense implemented a Computer Physician Order Entry (CPOE) in 1994, but it has not been updated since. At that time, the technology was very limited in scope and ability. Mission Hospitals has invested in the development of an integrated clinical system that incorporates CPOE as an integral component. The funding secured by Rep. Shuler will provide Mission Hospitals with the resources necessary to test the strength of the CPOE system. This will result in recommendations to the DOD on the how to significantly improve the CPOE system.

“The men and women serving in our Armed Forces deserve the highest quality and most effective health care that we can provide. This project will help the DOD improve their medical technology infrastructure to ensure that they are receiving that high-quality care,” said Rep. Shuler.

“The safety and quality of patient care for Western North Carolinians who come to Mission Hospitals will be greatly enhanced because of this \$1 million appropriation Congressman Shuler obtained for us,” said Dr. Arlo Jennings, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Mission. “With this appropriation Mission will continue to be a leader among U.S. hospitals in using technology to create a secure electronic medical record for our patients and physicians.”

The FY 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill was signed into law by President Bush Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

###